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## CHAPTER 3

(House Bill No. 7—By Mr. Robinson from the Select Committee)

AN ACT to amend and re-enact section seven of chapter one hundred and forty-eight of the code of West Virginia, as amended and re-enacted by chapter fifty-one of the acts of the legislature of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred and nine, regular session, and as further amended and re-enacted by an act of the legislature of West Virginia, regular session, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-five, relating to offenses against the peace; providing for the granting and revoking of licenses and permits respecting the use, transportation and possession of weapons and fire arms; restricting the manner of the sale and display of weapons and fire arms; imposing liability upon certain persons for the accidental or improper, negligent or illegal discharges of weapons and fire arms; defining the powers and duties of certain officers in the granting and revocation of said licenses and permits, and providing penalties for the violation of this act and any part thereof.

[Passed June 5, 1925; in effect 90 days from passage. Approved by the Governor.]

Sec.

7. (a) Penalty for carrying dangerous or deadly weapon without license; second offense; duties of prosecuting attorneys; application for license; what to show; publication; issuance; fee; bond; term of license; territory covered; deputy sheriffs and railway police licenses co-extensive with state; accounting for fees; forms by tax commissioner; certified copy of license to superintendent of department of public safety; list of all licenses to the same; lawful to carry arms on own premises, or from place of purchase and repair, not applicable to employee; permits to express company employees and railway police; bonds; emergency permits; reports of violations, and penalty

Sec.

for failure so to do; certain officers permitted to carry arms; bond; unlawful to carry or use weapon in a manner likely to cause breach of peace; penalty; revocation of license; notice; reinstatement.  
7. (b) Permits for possession of machine gun and high-powered rifle; regulations; exception of rifle club members and licensed hunters; granting of permit; fee; revocation; confiscation of arms; alien prohibited from owning or possessing arms; display of arms for sale or rent prohibited; report of sales by dealers to superintendent of department of public safety; unlawful to arm alien; penalty for violations of this sub-section; inconsistent acts repealed.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

That section seven of chapter one hundred and forty-eight of the code of West Virginia, as amended and re-enacted by chapter fifty-one of the acts of the legislature of West Virginia of one thousand nine hundred and nine, regular session, and as further amended and re-enacted by the legislature of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-five, regular session, in House Bill number four hundred six, be amended and re-enacted so as to read as follows:

Section 7 (a). If any person, without a state license therefor, 2 carry about his person any revolver or other pistol, dirk, 3 bowie-knife, slung shot, razor, billy, metallic or other false 4 knuckles, or any other dangerous or deadly weapon of like 5 kind or character, he shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and 7 upon conviction thereof be confined in the county jail for a 8 period of not less than six nor more than twelve months for 9 the first offense; but upon conviction of the same person for 10 the second offense in this state, he shall be guilty of a felony 11 and be confined in the penitentiary not less than one or more 12 than five years, and in either case fined not less than fifty 13 nor more than two hundred dollars, in the discretion of the 14 court; and it shall be the duty of the prosecuting attorney 15 in all cases to ascertain whether or not the charge made by 16 the grand jury is the first or second offense, and if it shall be 17 the second offense, it shall be so stated in the indictment re- 18 turned, and the prosecuting attorney shall introduce the rec- 19 ord evidence before the trial court of said second offense, and 20 shall not be permitted to use his discretion in charging said 21 second offense nor in introducing evidence to prove the same 22 on the trial; *provided*, that boys or girls under the age of 23 eighteen years, upon the second conviction, may, at the dis- 24 cretion of the court, be sent to the industrial homes for boys 25 and girls, respectively, of the state. Any person desiring to 26 obtain a state license to carry any such weapon within one or 27 more counties in this state shall first publish a notice in some 28 newspaper, published in the county in which he resides, setting 29 forth his name, residence and occupation, and that on a cer- 30 tain day he will apply to the circuit court of his county for 31 such state license; and after the publication of such notice for 32 at least ten days before said application is made and at the 33 time stated in said notice upon application to said court, it 34 may grant such person a license in the following manner, 35 to-wit:

36 The applicant shall file with said court his application in 37 writing, duly verified, which said application shall show:

38 *First:* That said applicant is a citizen of the United States 39 of America.

40 *Second:* That such applicant has been a *bona fide* resident 41 of this state for at least one year next prior to the date of 42 such application, and of the county sixty days next prior 43 thereto.

44 *Third:* That such applicant is over twenty-one years of  
45 age; that he is a person of good moral character, of temper-  
46 ate habits, not addicted to intoxication, and has not been  
47 convicted of a felony nor of any offense involving the use on  
48 his part of such weapon in an unlawful manner.

49 *Fourth:* The purpose or purposes for which the applicant  
50 desires to carry such weapon and the necessity therefor and  
51 the county or counties in which said license is desired to be  
52 effective.

53 Upon the hearing of such application the court shall hear  
54 evidence upon all matters stated in such application and upon  
55 any other matter deemed pertinent by the court, and if such  
56 court be satisfied from the proof that there is good reason and  
57 cause for such person to carry such weapon, and all of the  
58 other conditions of this act be complied with, said circuit  
59 court or the judge thereof in vacation, may grant  
60 said license for such purposes, and no other, as said  
60-a circuit court may set out in the said license (and the word  
60-b "court" as used in this act shall include the circuit judge  
60-c thereof, acting in vacation); but before the said  
61 license shall be effective such person shall pay to the  
62 sheriff, and the court shall so certify in its order granting the  
63 license, the sum of twenty dollars, and shall also file a bond  
64 with the clerk of said court, in the penalty of three thousand  
65 five hundred dollars, with good security, signed by a respon-  
66 sible person or persons, or by some surety company, author-  
67 ized to do business in this state, conditioned that such appli-  
68 cant will not carry such weapon except in accordance with his  
69 said application and as authorized by the court, and that he  
70 will pay all costs and damages accruing to any person by the  
71 accidental discharge or improper, negligent or illegal use of  
72 said weapon or weapons. Any such license granted after this  
73 act becomes effective shall be good for one year, unless sooner  
74 revoked, as hereinafter provided, and be co-extensive with the  
75 county in which granted, and such other county or coun-  
76 ties as the court shall designate in the order granting such  
77 license; except that regularly appointed deputy sheriffs having  
78 license shall be permitted to carry such revolver or other  
79 weapons at any place, within the state, while in the perfor-  
80 mance of their duties as such deputy sheriffs and except that  
81 any such license granted to regularly appointed railway police

82 shall be co-extensive with the state, and all license fees col-  
83 lected hereunder shall be paid by the sheriff and accounted for  
84 to the auditor as other license taxes are collected and paid, and  
85 the state tax commissioner shall prepare all suitable forms for  
86 licenses and bonds and certificates showing that such license  
87 has been granted and to do anything else in the premises to  
88 protect the state and see to the enforcement of this act.

89 The clerk of the court shall immediately after license is  
90 granted as aforesaid, furnish the superintendent of the de-  
91 partment of public safety a certified copy of the order of the  
92 court granting such license, for which service the clerk shall  
93 be paid a fee of two dollars which shall be taxed as cost in  
94 the proceeding; within thirty days after this act becomes  
95 effective it shall be the duty of the clerks of each court in this  
96 state having jurisdiction to issue pistol licenses to certify  
97 to the superintendent of the department of public safety a  
98 list of all such licenses issued in his county.

99 *Provided*, that nothing herein shall prevent any person  
100 from carrying any such weapon, in good faith and not for a  
101 felonious purpose, upon his own premises, nor shall anything  
102 herein prevent a person from carrying any such weapon  
103 (unloaded) from the place of purchase to his home  
104 or place of residence, or to a place of repair and  
105 back to his home or residence; but nothing herein  
106 shall be construed to authorize any employee of any person,  
107 firm or corporation doing business in this state to carry on  
108 or about the premises of such employer any such pistol, or  
109 other weapon mentioned in this act for which a license is  
110 herein required, without having first obtained the license and  
111 given the bond as herein provided; and, *provided, further*,  
112 that nothing herein shall prevent agents, messengers and  
113 other employees of express companies doing business as com-  
114 mon carriers, whose duties require such agents, messengers  
115 and other employees to have the care, custody or protection  
116 of money, valuables and other property for such express com-  
117 panies, from carrying any such weapon while actually en-  
118 gaged in such duties, or in doing anything reasonably inci-  
119 dent to such duties; *provided*, such express company shall  
120 execute a continuing bond in the penalty of thirty thousand  
121 dollars, payable unto the state of West Virginia, and with  
122 security to be approved by the secretary of state of the state

123 of West Virginia, conditioned that said express company will  
124 pay all damages, accruing to anyone by the accidental dis-  
125 charge or improper, negligent or illegal discharge or use of such  
126 weapon or weapons by such agent, messenger or other employee  
127 while actually engaged in such duties for such express com-  
128 pany, in doing anything that is reasonably incident to such du-  
129 ties; but the amount which may be recovered for breach of  
130 such condition shall not exceed the sum of three thousand five  
131 hundred dollars in any one case, and such bond shall be filed  
132 with and held by the said secretary of state, for the purpose  
133 aforesaid, but upon the trial of any cause for the recovery of  
134 damages upon said bond, the burden of proof shall be upon  
135 such express company to establish that such agent, messenger  
136 or other employee was not actually employed in such duties for  
137 such express company nor in doing anything that was rea-  
138 sonably incident to such duties at the time such damages were  
139 sustained; and, *provided further*, that nothing herein shall  
139-a prevent railroad police officers duly appointed and qualified  
139-b under authority of section thirty-one of chapter one hun-  
139-c dred forty-five of Barnes' code or duly qualified under the  
139-d laws of any other state, from carrying any such weapon  
139-e while actually engaged in their duties or in doing anything  
139-f reasonably incident to such duties; *provided*, such railroad  
139-g company shall execute a continuing bond in the penalty of  
139-h ten thousand dollars payable unto the state of West Vir-  
139-i ginia and with security to be approved by the secretary of  
139-j state of the state of West Virginia conditioned that said  
139-k railroad company will pay all damages accruing to anyone  
139-l by the accidental discharge or improper, negligent or illegal  
139-m discharge or use of such weapon or weapons by such rail-  
139-n road special police officer whether appointed in this or some  
139-n-1 other state while actually engaged in such duties for such  
139-o railroad company, in doing anything that is reasonably inci-  
139-p dent to such duties, but the amount which may be recovered  
139-q for breach of such condition shall not exceed the sum of  
139-r three thousand five hundred dollars in any one case, and  
139-s such bond shall be filed with and held by the said secretary  
139-t of state for the purpose aforesaid but upon the trial of any  
139-u cause for the recovery of damages upon said bond, the bur-  
139-v den of proof shall be upon such railroad company to estab-  
139-w lish that such railroad police officer was not actually em-

139-*x* ployed in such duties for such railroad company nor in  
139-*y* doing anything that was reasonably incident to such duties  
139-*z* at the time such damages were sustained; and *provided, fur-*  
140 *ther*, that in case of riot, public danger and emer-  
140-*a* gency, a justice of the peace, or other person  
141 issuing a warrant, may authorize a special constable and his  
142 posse whose names shall be set forth in said warrant,  
142-*a* to carry weapons for the purpose of executing a pro-  
143 cess, and a sheriff in such cases may authorize a deputy or  
144 posse to carry weapons, but the justice shall write in his  
145 docket the cause and reasons for such authority and the name  
146 of the person, or persons, so authorized, and index the same,  
147 and the sheriff or other officer shall write out and file with  
148 the clerk of the county court the reasons and causes for such  
149 authority and the name, or names of the persons so author-  
150 ized, and the same shall always be open to public inspection,  
151 and such authority shall authorize such special constable,  
152 deputies and posses to carry weapons in good faith only for  
153 the specific purposes and times named in such authority, and  
154 upon the trial of every indictment the jury shall inquire into  
155 the good faith of the person attempting to defend such in-  
156 dictment under the authority granted by any such justice,  
157 sheriff or other officer, and any such person or persons so  
158 authorized shall be personally liable for the injury caused to  
159 any person by the negligent or unlawful use of any such  
160 weapon or weapons. It shall be the duty of all ministerial of-  
161 ficers, consisting of the justices of the peace, notaries public and  
162 other conservators of the peace of this state, to report to the  
163 prosecuting attorney of the county the names of all persons  
164 guilty of violating this section, and any person wilfully failing  
165 so to do, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined not  
166 exceeding two hundred dollars, and shall, moreover, be liable  
167 to removal from office for such wilful failure; and it shall  
168 likewise be the duty of every person having knowledge of the  
169 violation of this act, to report the same to the prosecuting  
170 attorney, and to freely and fully give evidence concerning  
171 the same, and any one failing so to do, shall be guilty of a  
172 misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not  
173 exceeding one hundred dollars; *provided, further*, that noth-  
174 ing herein contained shall be so construed as to prohibit sher-  
175 iffs, their regularly appointed deputies, who actually collect



176 taxes in each county, and all constables in their respective  
177 counties and districts, and all regularly appointed police offi-  
178 cers of their respective cities, towns or villages, all jailors and  
179 game protectors who have been duly appointed as such, and  
179-a members of the department of public safety of this  
179-b state, from carrying such weapons as they are now  
180 authorized by law to carry, who shall have given  
181 bond in the penalty of not less than three thousand five hun-  
182 dred dollars, conditioned for the faithful performance of their  
183 respective duties, which said officers shall be liable upon their  
184 said official bond, for the damages done by the unlawful or  
185 careless use of any such weapon or weapons, whether such  
186 bond is so conditioned or not.

187 It shall be unlawful for any person armed with a pistol,  
188 gun, or other dangerous or deadly weapon, whether licensed  
189 to carry same or not, to carry, expose, brandish, or use, such  
190 weapon in a way or manner to cause, or threaten, a breach  
191 of the peace. Any person violating this provision of this act  
192-4 shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction, shall  
195 be fined not less than fifty nor more than three hundred  
196 dollars or imprisoned in the county jail not less than thirty  
197 nor more than ninety days, or be punished by both fine and  
198 imprisonment in the discretion of the court.

199 Any circuit court granting any such license to carry any  
200 of the weapons mentioned in this act, the governor, or the su-  
201 perintendent of the department of public safety, with the con-  
202 sent of the governor, may, for any cause deemed sufficient by  
203 said court, or by the governor or by the superintendent of the  
204 department of public safety with the approval of the governor  
205 aforesaid, as the case may be, revoke any such license to carry  
205-a a pistol or other weapon mentioned in this act for which a  
205-b license is required, and immediate notice of such revocation  
206 shall be given such licensee in person, by registered mail or in  
207 the same manner as provided by law for the service of other  
208 notices, and no person whose license has been so revoked shall  
209 be re-licensed within one year thereafter; *provided*, that the  
210 authority so revoking such license may, after a hearing, sooner  
211 reinstate such licensee.

212 (b) It shall be unlawful for any person to carry, transport,  
213 or to have in his possession any machine gun, sub-machine gun,  
214 and what is commonly known as a high powered rifle, or any

215 gun of similar kind or character, or any ammunition therefor,  
216 except on his own premises or premises leased to him for a  
217 fixed term, until such person shall have first obtained a per-  
218 mit from the superintendent of the department of public  
219 safety of this state, and approved by the governor, or until a  
220 license therefor shall have been obtained from the circuit  
221 court as in the case of pistols and all such licenses together  
222 with the numbers identifying such rifle shall be certified to  
223 the superintendent of the department of public safety. *Pro-*  
224 *vided, further,* that nothing herein shall prevent the use of  
225 rifles by *bona fide* rifle club members who are freeholders or  
226 tenants for a fixed term in this state at their usual or cus-  
227 tomary place of practice, or licensed hunters in the actual  
228 hunting of game animals. No such permit shall be granted  
229 by such superintendent except in cases of riot, public danger,  
230 and emergency, until such applicant shall have filed his writ-  
231 ten application with said superintendent of the department  
232 of public safety, in accordance with such rules and regula-  
233 tions as may from time to time be prescribed by said depart-  
234 ment of public safety relative thereto, which application shall  
235 be accompanied by a fee of two dollars to be used in defraying  
236 the expense of issuing such permit, and said application shall  
237 contain the same provisions as are required to be shown under  
238 the provisions of this act by applicants for pistol license, and  
239 shall be duly verified by such applicant, and at least one  
240 other reputable citizen of this state. Any such permit as  
241 granted under the provisions of this act may be revoked by the  
242 governor at his pleasure and upon the revocation of any such  
243 permit the department of public safety shall immediately seize  
244 and take possession of any such machine gun, sub-machine  
245 gun, high powered rifle, or gun of similar kind and character,  
246 held by reason of said permit, and any and all ammunition  
247 therefor, and the said department of public safety shall also  
248 confiscate any such machine gun, sub-machine gun, and what  
249 is commonly known as a high powered rifle, or any gun of  
250 similar kind and character and any and all ammunition there-  
251 for so owned, carried, transported or possessed contrary to the  
252 provisions of this act, and shall safely store and keep the same,  
253 subject to the order of the governor. No alien shall own, keep  
254 or possess any firearm of any kind or character. It shall be  
255 unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to place or keep

256 on public display to passersby on the streets, for rent or sale,  
257 any revolver, pistol, dirk, bowie knife, slung shot or other  
258 dangerous weapon of like kind or character or any machine  
259 gun, sub-machine gun or high powered rifle or any gun of  
260 similar kind or character, or any ammunition for the same.  
261 All dealers licensed to sell any of the foregoing arms or  
262 weapons shall take the name, address, age and general appear-  
263 ance of the purchaser, as well as the maker of the gun, manu-  
264 facturer's serial number and caliber, and report the same at  
265 once in writing to the superintendent of the department of  
266 public safety.  
267 It shall be unlawful for any person to sell, rent, give or  
268 lend any of the above mentioned arms to an unnaturalized  
269 person.  
270 Any person violating the provisions of sub-section (b) of  
271 this act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction  
272 thereof shall be fined not less than fifty dollars, nor more than  
273 three hundred dollars, or confined in the county jail not less  
274 than thirty days nor more than six months, or both such fine  
275 and imprisonment, in the discretion of the court.  
276 All acts and parts of acts inconsistent herewith are hereby  
277 repealed.

CHAPTER 4

(Senate Bill No. 4—By Joint Special Committee)

AN ACT making appropriations of public moneys to pay general charges upon the treasury.

[Passed June 6, 1925; in effect from passage. Approved by the Governor.]

Sec.		Sec.
1.	Appropriations made from the treasury.	cost of new capitol; authorizing construction and limiting cost of second office building.
2.	Fiscal years of 1926 and 1927.	
3.	Appropriations under sub-sections "A," "B" and "C" payable out of the general revenue of the state.	5. Appropriations for maintenance and repair of roads; in "state fund general revenue" not otherwise appropriated to be used for road maintenance.
	Sub-Section "A"	
4.	Construction and equipment of second unit of office building of new capitol; Governor to sell all state property on Capitol and Summers streets in Charleston; proceeds to be paid into the treasury as a special capitol building fund; Governor may continue capitol building commission, by re-appointment; limit of total	5-a. Recodification commission; salary and expenses of the commission, assistants and stenographers; expenses of the legislative committee; this an additional appropriation.
		Sub-Section "B"
		6. Appropriations appearing under sub-section "B" payable only on requisition and approval of the state board of control.